

THE JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE (ISSN 0161-5505) is published monthly by The Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc., 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-6760. Second Class Postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. *Postmaster*, send address changes to *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-6760.

EDITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS should be sent to the Editor: H. William Strauss, MD, The Journal of Nuclear Medicine, Room 5406 MGH-East, Bldg. 149, 13th St., Charlestown, MA 02129 (617) 726-5786. *Books and monographs* covering the use of nuclear medicine and its allied disciplines will be reviewed as space is available. *Send review copies to the Editor.*

BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS concerning advertising, subscriptions, change of address, and permission requests should be sent to the publisher, The Society of Nuclear Medicine, 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-6760 (212)889-0717. Advertisements are subject to editorial approval and are restricted to products or services pertinent to nuclear medicine. Advertising rates are available from the publisher. Closing date is the first of the month preceding the date of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES for 1991 calendar year are \$120 within the United States; \$130 for Canada and Pan American countries; \$160 elsewhere. Student subscriptions are \$70 (with proof of student status). Single copies \$10.00; foreign \$11.00; convention issue (May) \$12.00; foreign \$13.00. Make checks payable, in U.S. dollars drawn on U.S. banks, to The Society of Nuclear Medicine. Notify the Society of change of address and telephone number at least 30 days before date of issue by sending both the old and new addresses.

COPYRIGHT © 1991 by The Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or translated without permission from the copyright owner. Because the copyright on articles published in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* is held by the Society, each author of accepted manuscripts must sign a statement transferring copyright. See Information for Authors for further explanation.

The Muse *God is the answer. But what is the question?*

Gertrude Stein

"It was a dark and stormy night," wrote Snoopy, while sitting on top of his dog house. Snoopy begins his great novels with those words. Unfortunately, he rarely gets beyond the second sentence. In this regard, Snoopy is typical—willing to start, but unable to follow through. Too many unended beginnings, like good intentions, pave the road to perdition. Dark and stormy nights present opportunities to go beyond the beginnings. On these nights, our personal muse may make itself known. Everyone has one. It is only a matter of listening to the whispers. Recognizing the inner voice and finding the means to give it expression unleashes creativity.

In the Star Wars trilogy, Luke Skywalker was advised to go with the Force. This guiding spirit would help the Jedi warrior survive his evil encounters. This quasi religious approach is similar to learning to listen to the muse. It is a form of internal awareness that comes with practice. Although the introduction to one's muse may start in a crowd, it is the experience in solitude that provides the greatest insights. The muse takes on a persona of its own—while it is a part of us, it is also an alter ego, a self that is not really self. That is why we can talk to our muse, and our muse can talk to us. When the muse whispers, the work gets done.

While beginnings are associated with excitement, newness, and adventure, staying the course takes stamina. As time passes, the joy of beginning turns into the drudge of continuing. More energy is required just to keep at it. "Is it worth it?" becomes a recurring theme. Time to step back, survey the progress, re-examine the goal, and listen. In addition to fostering creativity, the muse serves as critic. Each word is scrutinized, justified, and changed as necessary for clarity and brevity. The internal compass returns; we pick up the thread and begin again.

On this dark and rainy night, with the muse whispering, it is easy to be creative. The Force is with me.

H. William Strauss
Editor, The Journal of Nuclear Medicine